

147
ARTICLES

CONCERNING

Matters Ecclesiastical;

To be Enquired of within the

DIOCESE

OF

LINCOLN,

AT THE

TRIENNIAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

JAMES

Lord Bishop of that Diocese.

Together with ADVICE to the *Church-Wardens* and
Side-Men in the said Diocese.

LONDON, Printed for *Brab. Aylmer*, at the
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The Form of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOU shall Swear to make True Presentment, according to the Book of Articles given You in Charge, as far as You know, and by Law You are Bound, without Fear or Favour of any Person.

So help You God.

A D-

A D V I C E

T O T H E

Church-Wardens *and* Side-Men

I N T H E

Diocese of *Lincoln*.

I Am sensible, that the *Church-wardens* and *Side-men* in all Dioceses, and especially in this of *Lincoln*, which is of so large extent, containing Counties in which there are various Customs and Manners, must needs be Men of different Abilities and Capacities, having different Employments, according to their Education and Substance; as also of different Humours and Principles, and of different Opinions and Judgments in some Points of Religion: So that no Advice but what is general, can reach to all.

But that some *Advice* is needful, is too plain by the Experiences of *Bishops* and *Arch-Deacons* in their respective *Visitations*, who cannot be sufficiently informed of the evil Lives and Manners either of the Clergy or Laity, or of the Defects of things requisite in and about the Parish Churches, or of other Buildings that are out of Order, and therefore cannot correct what is amiss, nor supply what is wanting, but by the Assistance of the *Church-wardens*; for the proper way to come to the Knowledge of these Disorders and Scandals, is by their *Presentments*, according to those Articles that are delivered to them.

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And indeed some General Rules of *Advice* may serve sufficiently for Men that have the General Qualification of *Fidelity* and *Honesty*, which all *Church-wardens* ought to have. They ought to understand the Sense and Obligation of an *Oath*, grounded upon the Belief and Fear of God, and of the Account that must be made hereafter of the Discharge of their Trust; and if they have this Qualification, however unlearned or unskilful they may otherwise be, and of whatsoever Condition and Quality, they are capable of performing this Office.

I therefore apply my self to you the *Church-wardens* and *Sides-men*, of the several Parishes within my Diocese, as *honest* and *faithful* Men, and expect such Assistance from you in my Visitation as belongs to your Office, by presenting all things that may come by diligent and impartial Enquiry to your Knowledge, that are fit to be presented.

I know you will labour under some Temptations and Difficulties, in discharging your Duty faithfully.

You may be solicited by some *Offenders* to conceal their Faults, although notorious enough. Persons of *Quality* and *Estate* may expect and demand some Connivances. Others may promise *Amendment* for the future, if they may be spared for the present. *Dependance*, and *Relation*, and *Civility* will sometimes sway. And the saving Charges and Expences, in the rectifying things that are amiss, and providing things that are wanting, will gratify the Generality of the Parish.

These *Motives* may prevail with Men of mean Condition, and poor Spirits, and no Conscience. But on the other side, the *Oath* of God is, and ought to be, a *Motive* greater than all these, especially with Men that have any Belief of Religion, or any Sense of God, who is the main Object of our Fear and Hope.

Such as set God before their Eyes in what they do, especially in what they do deliberately, would not be guilty of *Perjury* for all the World; knowing this, That they must either *Repent* or be *damned* for it. It is not the Fear of some Men, nor the Favour of others, that can betray.

betray such a Man to act against his Conscience, or, after Consideration, to swear falsely, and to damn his own Soul to save other Mens *Purses*, and *Reputation*.

I doubt not the effect, but that all of you who have been bred up in the Knowledge, and Belief of God, and of the Christian Religion, and that part of it particularly which is the *Judgment* to come, will use great Deliberation, and take care to keep a good Conscience in the Faithful Performance of your Duty, of which you must give an account, knowing that by your *Oath* you call God to be your *Witness* and your *Judge*.

Nor are you to set God before your Eyes only as a *Judge* and an *Avenger*, but also as an *Incourager* and *Rewarder* of all those that perform their Trusts and Duties faithfully, of what kind soever.

It is an acceptable Service to God to promote the good *Government* and *Discipline* of the Church of Christ, and he will reward you for it.

It is in your power to bring *Offenders* into Light and View, which may be a good means to reclaim and reform them.

You may discover *secret Sinners*, and check the *Prophane*, the *Blasphemous*, and *Scandalous* of all Qualities.

Even those that serve in the *Sacred Ministry*, are not exempt from your Notice and Observation; and to signify their Miscarriages, with due Reverence to their Office, may be a means to bring them into better Conduct and Regularity.

It is in some measure within your Power, that as neither *Fornicators*, nor *Idolaters*, nor *Adulterers*, nor *Effeminate*, nor *Abusers of themselves with mankind*, nor *Thieves*, nor *Covetous*, nor *Drunkards*, nor *Revilers*, nor *Extortioners*, shall inherit the *Kingdom of God* in Heaven, so they may not enjoy the Privileges of it upon Earth without Repentance and Reformation, 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10.

It is in your Power to secure the *Revenues* of the Church from Spoil and Sacrilege, by giving in exact and faithful *Terrars*, in which I desire you to be very careful and just.

You

You may do right to the *Poor*, as well as to other Parishioners, by discovering the Abuses that are committed in the Use, and Distribution of publick and charitable *Donations*, which Abuses are too common.

You may render the Publick Worship and Service of God easy and agreeable, by providing all things requisite and convenient for the Performance of it. As for Instance,

1. That the *Seats* and *Floors* of the Church and Chancel be so disposed that the People may *kneel*, and not *lean*, in the time of Prayer.
2. That the Holy Sacraments of *Baptism* and the *Lord's Supper*, which are solemn Christian Rites may be administred *orderly*, in their *proper* Places, with *decent* Utensils and Ornaments, and without Confusion.

It is your Duty to preserve that part of the *Church* which appertains to the Parishioners in good Repair; and to present the Defects of the *Chancel*, where there are any such; That so the whole *Fabrick* may be maintained both within, and without, as it becomes a Place erected and consecrated to the Uses of *Religion*. That there be nothing wanting or misused which the Canon requires; and that the Church be kept, at least, as clean as you would do your own Houses.

Many other Instances there are wherein you may be useful in the Parishes where you are concerned, But I cannot now, and I hope I need not mention them all. If you discharge the whole *faithfully*, and *impartially*, God will bless and reward you, and good Men will praise you, and evil Men will fear, but not injure you; and, what ought further to encourage you, your own Consciences will acquit you.

Now,

Now, in order to this, I shall only add these short Directions.

1. That you Read, or cause to be read *deliberately* to you, this Paper of *Advice*, together with the Articles, before you come to the Visitation, taking the Assistance of your Minister.

2. That you recollect what you know, or have heard of any thing which is Matter of ill *Fame* or *Scandal*, within your Parish; and examine into it thorowly and impartially, that you may, if it be possible, know the certain Truth of it.

3. That you look strictly into, and about the *Church*, and *Church-yard*, that you may see what is out of Repair, or wanting, according to the Articles, and Repair and supply what you can before the Visitation. If you have not time for all, Present what is amiss, and time may be given. Particularly, see that the *Bible*, and *Common-Prayer Books*, and other *Books* mentioned in the Articles, be perfect and well covered, and that all the *Ustensils* of the Church be such as the Canon requires; and take care of one thing, which is much neglected about most Churches, that you cut down and root up such *Trees* as grow within the Walls or about the Foundations, which do much Damage to the Fabrick.

4. When you come to the Place of Visitation, That you forbear the taking of any Refreshment before you go to Church, that you may behave your selves *orderly* in the time of Divine Service and Sermon. This also will dispose you to take your Oaths *seriously* and *gravely*, as in the Sight and Prefence of God. It is a sad thing to see how carelessly and inconsiderately some Men swear in Publick Courts, both Ecclesiastical and Civil.

5. That

5. That your *Entertainment* afterwards, and at all other times in Parish Business, be *moderate*; which will not only save the Parish some Charges, which you (being only intrusted by them) ought to consider, but also it may be a means to prevent *Intemperance*, which besides the Evil of it, is also at such a time more scandalous and what it is your Duty to Present others for, and therefore you should not practise it your selves.

If you observe this Advice and Directions, you will perform your Duty *usefully* to the Church, and *comfortably* to your selves; And I pray God Almighty make you sensible of the Obligation you lie under so to do.

ARTI-

ARTICLES

CONCERNING

Matters Ecclesiastical, &c.

IN THE

Dioceſe of *LINCOLN*.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, and Chappels, and the Furniture belonging to them.

1. **I**S your Pariſh-Church or Chappel well and ſufficiently repaired, the Windows glazed, not ſtopped up, the Floor evenly paved, and the Seats convenient for Kneeling and Sitting, and the whole Church clean and decent? Canon 85.

2. Hath any part of your Church or Chappel, or Steeple, been demolished, or fallen down, what part and how long ſince? Or hath any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells been imbezled or ſold, and by whom? Canon 81, 82.

3. Is there in the Church or Chappel a Font of Stone with a Cover to it, ſtanding in the uſual Place? Is there a decent Communion Table in your Chancel, covered in time of Divine-Service, with a Carpet of Silk or

B

Stuff,

Stuff, and, at the time of Administring the Holy Communion, with a fair Linnen Cloath? Have you a Patin for the Bread, and a Chalice for the Wine with a Cover, and one or more Flaggons preserved and kept for this Use, and not imployed for any other?

3. Canon 58.

4. Have you a decent Surplice for the Minister to use at the time of Divine Service, provided and duly washed at the Charge of the Parish?

4. Canon 83,

80.

5. Have you in the Church or Chappel a convenient Seat or Pew for the Reading of Divine Service; a Pulpit with a Cloath or Cushion; a Large Bible of the last Translation; Two Books of Common-Prayer for the Minister and Clerk, well bound; The Book of Homilies set forth by Authority; The Book of Canons; A Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited?

5. Canon 70.

6. Have you a Register-book of Parchment of the Day and Year of all Christenings, Weddings and Burials in your Parish; Also a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts, and a strong Chest with Locks and Keys wherein to keep all the said Books, and the forementioned Furniture?

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, Houses, Glebe, Tithes and Possessions belonging to the Church.

2. Canon 85.

1. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and carefully kept with Walls, Pales, or Rails, as has been accustomed? are the Trees therein preserved? has any part of it been separated from it, or any Door made into it?

2. Lindwood
de Eccles.
Ædij.

2. Is the House of the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging, kept in good and sufficient Repair? Have any of the said Houses been defaced or pulled down without Licence, and by whom? Have any Incroachments been made upon the same, and by whom?

3. Canon 87.

3. Have you a true Terrier of all the Gleab lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging

longing to the Parsonage or Vicarage? Have you a particular of the Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portion of Tithes, either within or without your Parish, and other yearly Profits belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish to the Detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage; and converting Arable Land into Pasture? Is your Terrier entred in the Bishops Registry?

T I T. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **I**S your Minister Episcopally ordained, and Licensed 1. Canon 36. by the Bishop himself? hath he been legally inducted? and hath he Read the thirty nine Articles within the Time by Law appointed, and declared his Assent thereunto?

2. Is your Minister suspected to have obtained his Benefice by any Simoniack Contract? 2. Canon 40.

3. Is your Minister constantly resident in the Parish? 3. Canon 43, does he preach every Lord's Day, unless hindered by sickness, or reasonable Absence? How long in any one year hath he been absent from his Cure? Hath he a Licensed Curate to assist him in his absence or presence? and what Yearly Stipend doth he allow him? Doth he supply any other Cure besides, or hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? 47.

4. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women, Burial of the Dead, and Pronouncing God's Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer? doth he observe all such Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, so far as you know? 4 Act of Uniformity.

5. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices, wear the Surplice, together with the Habit suitable to his Degree? And doth he read the Service with an audible and distinct Voice? 5. Canon 58. Act of Uniformity.

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6. Doth

6. Canon 21,
26. 6. Doth he frequently administer the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, so often, as that every Parishioner may receive it thrice at the least in a year? And doth he keep back such as ought not to be admitted, giving an account of them to the Bishop?
7. Canon 59,
61. 7. Doth he diligently instruct the Youth of the Parish in the Church-Catechism; and when they are instructed, doth he, as there is opportunity, present them to be confirmed by the Bishop?
8. Canon 67,
68, 69. *Ru-
bric. of Pri-
vate Baptism.* 8. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit sick Persons? doth he delay to baptize Infants that are in danger of Death? Or being so baptized and recovering afterwards, does he take care that they be brought into the Church with Godfathers and Godmothers; that the Congregation may be satisfied of the baptizing thereof; Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Persons grown up, who, through your Ministers default, remains yet unbaptized in your Parish?
9. Canon 62,
63. Injunct. 9. Hath your Minister married any Persons in private Houses? Or such as being under Age, have not the consent of Parents or Guardians? or without the publication of Banns, unless by a Licence duly obtained? Or at any other hours than between eight and twelve a Clock in the Forenoon? Or, at any hour, Persons that are prohibited to marry, according to the Table of Marriage? Or such as either of them dwell in the Parish?
10. Canon 64.
3 *Fac. 1. c. 1.
6. & 7. Gul. 3.* 10. Doth your Minister publish the Holy days and Fasting days, and doth he read Divine Service appointed to be read those days? doth he on the fifth of *November* yearly, after Morning Prayer or Sermon, read the Act for Publick Thanksgiving on that day? And doth he read the Act for the more effectual suppressing Prophane Cursing and Swearing, four several times in the year, on the four several Sundays appointed in that Act?
11. Canon 74.
75. 11. Is your Minister sober, grave and peaceable in his Behaviour? Is he decent in his Apparel? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses, a common Gamester, a Swearer, Railer or Quarreller? Is he vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any Person either within the Parish or without?
12. Act of
Uniformity. 12. Have you a Lecturer in your Church or Chappel? Is he

he Licensed according to the Act of Uniformity? doth he, upon the first Lord's day in every Month, read Divine Service, and perform what the said Act requires? Hath he a Benefice with Cure of Souls elsewhere? if he have, where and at what distance?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **D**O the Parishioners when they come to Church or Chappel, behave themselves reverently during the time of Divine Service and Preaching? do they kneel at the Prayers and Sacrament, and stand up, when the Creeds and Gospel are read? do they repeat the Confession, Lord's-Prayer and Creeds with the Minister, and make such other Answers as are appointed in the Book of Common-Prayer, and say *Amen* audibly at the Conclusion of every Collect? 1. Canon 18.
Act of Uniformity.
2. Is there any Person in your Parish, who lieth under a common Fame or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication or Lasciviousness? are there any common Drunkards, Swearers or Blasphemers of God's Name? Or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord among their Neighbours? 2. Can. 109.
3. Are there any of your Parish, who, upon Sundays keep their Shops open, or follow their bodily and ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Or do any Vintners, Innkeepers or other Victuallers and Sellers, of Beer or Ale, suffer any Person to tipple or game in their Houses on that day? 3. 5. and 6.
Ed. 6. 4. & 5.
Gul & Mar.
4. Are there any of your Parish that neglect or refuse to pay their *Easter* Offering; or to pay the Rates set for the Repairs of the Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging? 4 Rubr. after
the Com-
munion.
Canon 85.
5. Are there any in your Parish who live as Man and Wife, that are known, or suspected not to be married, or any Living as Man and Wife, who are within the degrees prohibited? 5. Canon 95.
6. Are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in 6.

in your Parish that are not yet proved? or any Goods administered without a due Grant from the Ordinary? have any Legacies been left to your Church or Chappel, or to the Minister, or to the poor, or for any other pious or charitable use? what are these Legacies; and how have they been bestowed?

7. Canon. 19.
Act for exempt. Prot.
Dissent.

7. Are there any that loiter in the Church-yard or near the Church, in time of Divine Service or Sermon? Or any that wholly neglect all publick Worship of God, neither going to Church, nor to any Assembly pretending to worship God elsewhere, in places licensed according to a late Act for exempting his Majesty's Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of *England*, from the Penalties of certain Laws?

8. Have you any such Assembly of Dissenters in your Parish? do they, so far as you know, observe the Directions and Limitations of the aforesaid Act?

9. Canon. 112

9. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, being of Age fit to receive it?

10. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having a Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any *Simoniackal* Compact or Gain thereby, either in Moneys, or by reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

11. Have any Pews, Galleries or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without License from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in your Church? or any Seats broken and unrepaired?

T I T. V.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

1. Canon. 127.

1. **H**AVE any Ordinaries or Ecclesiastical Judges appointed Surrogates or Registers, within your Parish that are Promoters or Assisters of Clandestine Marriages, or have taken Rewards or Gifts for perverting Justice, or are noted for Intemperance, Incontinence, or other scandalous Vice?

2. Do

2. Do any Ecclesiastical Judges, Officials or Surrogates, 2. Can. 37.
grant Licenses to any Minister coming to reside in your
Parish to preach, Read, Catechize, or Administer the
Sacraments, or to exercise any other Ecclesiastical Functi-
on, unless he have consented and subscribed to the three
Articles in Can. 36. in the presence of the Bishop?

3. Do the said Ecclesiastical Officers, when your Li- 3.
ving is vacant, commit Sequestrations to honest and suffi-
cient Men, that do answer and account truly for the Pro-
fits during the Vacancy? Is your Parish provided with
an able Minister during the Vacancy?

4. Do any Ecclesiastical Judges, speed any Judicial 4 Can. 123.
Act, without the Registrar of the Court, or his lawful
Deputy, or in their absence, without such Persons as are
allowed in that behalf to your Knowledge?

5. Do the Officers in peculiar Jurisdictions and Inferi- 5. Can. 126.
our Courts, exhibit the Original Copies of Wills into the
Principal Register-Office as far as you know?

6. Hath any Ecclesiastical Officer commuted the Pe- 6. Canon.
nance of any Delinquent convicted? how has the Money An. 1571.
been disposed of within your Parish?

7. Hath any Ecclesiastical Officer demanded and taken 7. Can. 135.
any unlawful Fees that you know of?

T I T. VI.

Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**Ave you a Parish Clerk aged 21 years at least? Is 1. Canon 91.
he of an honest Life and Conversation? Is he
sufficiently qualified to perform his Duty in Reading and
Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? doth he duly
attend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are
his Wages duly paid him? Or who with-holds the same
from him?

2. Doth he or the Sexton perform his Duty diligently,
in keeping the Church and Chancel clean and decent, and
Tolling and Ringing the Bells, at due times before Divine
Service, as well upon other days, as upon Sundays?

T I T.

T I T. VII.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters, &c.

1. Canon 77, 73, 79. 1. **I**S there in your Parish any Hospital, Almshouse, or Free-School? who was the Founder, and is now the Patron thereof? Are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the Intention of the Founder, and the Statutes and Orders made concerning the same?
2. 2. Doth any Man keep School in your Parish who is not licensed thereunto by the Bishop? Is your School-master a diligent and sober Man? Does he teach his Scholars the Church-Catechism? Does he cause them to repair to the Church or Chappel on Sundays, and other Days, when there is Divine Service, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently?
2. 3 Hen. 8. 11. 3. Doth any Man in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery, or any Woman exercise the Office of a Midwife without license from the Ordinary?

T I T. VIII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-Men.

1. Canon 89. 1. **A**RE the Churchwardens yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?
2. *ibid.* 2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given a true Account of the Moneys they have received, and laid out for the use of the Church? And have they delivered up the Moneys remaining in their hands, (if any be) to the succeeding Churchwardens together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?
3. Canon. 18. 3. Do they suffer no Mis-behaviour or Disorder to be done by Men or Women, Servants or Children, by walking or talking, or any other way, in your Church or Chappel?
4. Canon 20. 4. Do the Minister and Church-wardens provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Charge of the Parish?
- Rubr. after the Communion.* 5. *Rubr. after the Communion.* 5. Is the Money given at the Offertory, disposed of to Pious and charitable Uses, as the Minister and Church-wardens think fit?

